

Interstate 95 Exit 113 Interchange Study



Interchange Modification Report
Environmental Assessment

Public Hearing
January 24, 2011



Meeting Information

- **Sign-in Sheet**
 - (Please sign your Name and Address)
- **Advertisements**
 - MaineDOT Web Page
 - City Web Page
 - Kennebec Journal (December 28)
 - Notices sent to abutters and public officials
- **Hearing is being recorded**
 - Please hold all comments and questions until the end of our presentations.
 - For the public record and the benefit of the court reporter, please state your name prior to making your comment or asking your question.

Study Partners

- Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- City of Augusta
- MaineGeneral Medical Center (MGMC)
- Augusta Board of Trade (ABOT)
- Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce (KVCC)
- Study Consultants
 - Maine Tomorrow
 - Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers, Inc.
 - Ourston Roundabout Engineering

Study History

Date	Event
October 2007	Initial Exit 113 modification request submitted to MaineDOT
February 2008	Interchange Modification Report (IMR) Study kick-off
January 2010	Conditional acceptance of IMR by FHWA
August 2009	Environmental Assessment (EA) initiation
December 2010	EA signed for distribution by MaineDOT and FHWA
January 2011	EA Public Hearing

Study Area

- IMR Study Area is depicted in red
- EA Study Area is depicted in black



Study Methodology

- **Data Collection**
- **Existing Condition**
- **Future Conditions**
- **Alternatives Analysis**
- **Recommendations**

Existing Interchanges



Existing Traffic Operations



Civic Center Drive at Darin Drive

- Darin Drive: LOS E

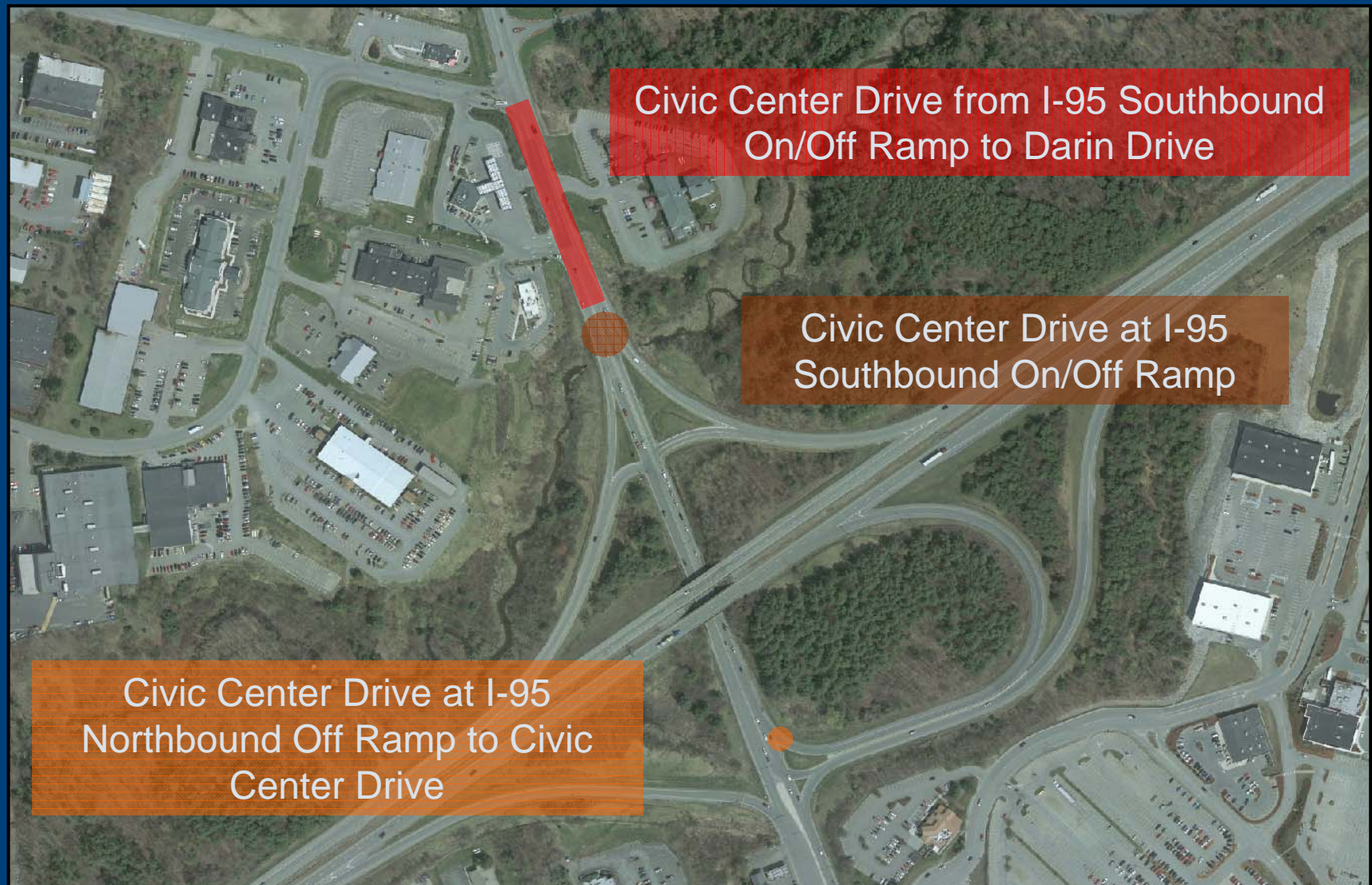
Civic Center Drive at I-95 Southbound On/Off Ramps

- Through and Right-Turns: LOS F
- Vehicle queues cause driveway blocking

Civic Center Drive at I-95 Northbound On Ramp

- Left-Turn Bay Spillover
- Left-Turns: LOS E

High Crash Locations



Purpose of and Need for Improvement

The Purpose of the Proposed Action is to:

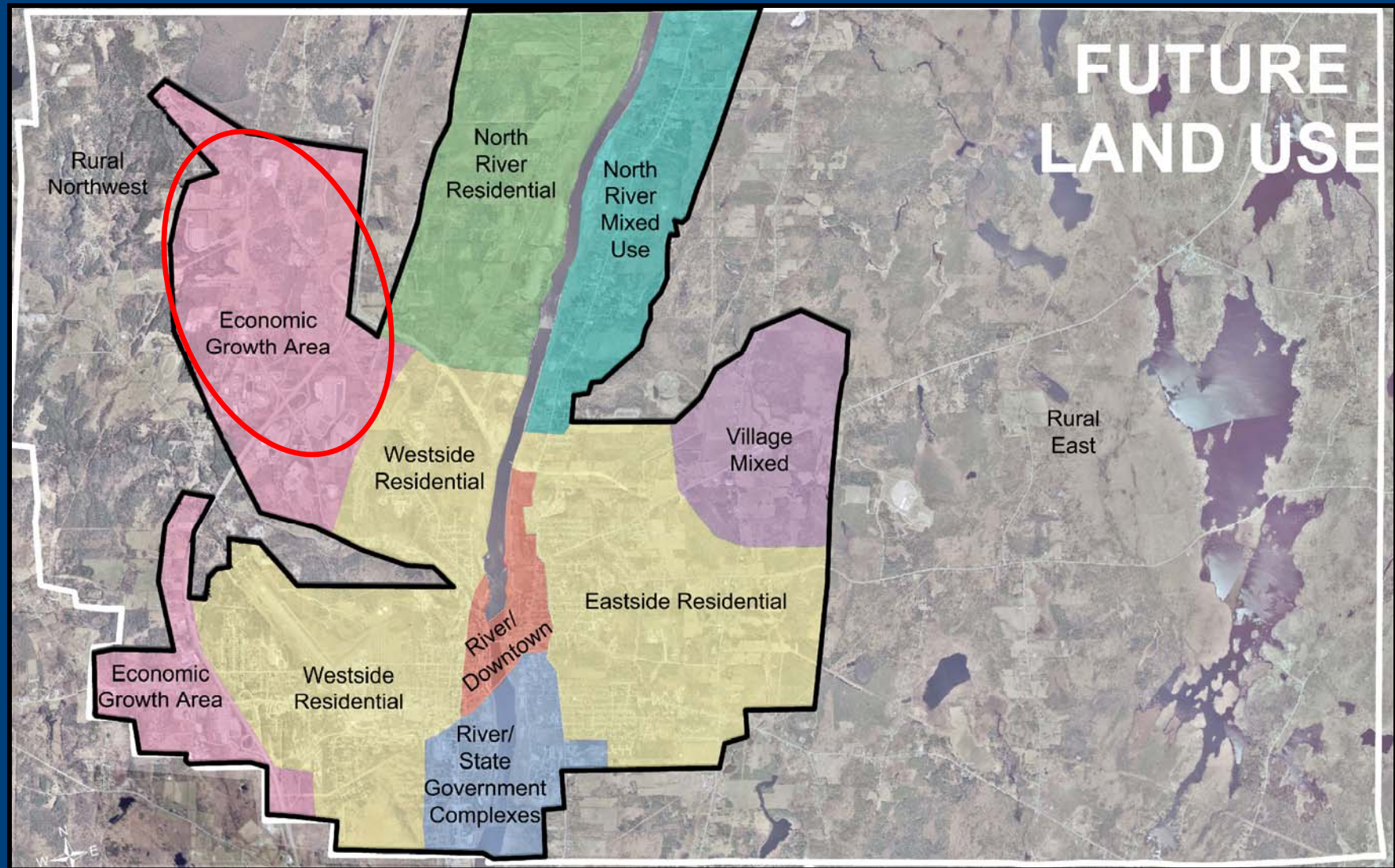
- Relieve congestion at Exit 112
- Reduce vehicle conflict points and High Crash Locations (HCLs) within the Study Area
- Provide an adequate transportation network within the Study Area that also accommodates regional mobility
- Compliment existing and proposed development opportunities in the Study Area

Purpose of and Need for Improvement

The Need for the Proposed Action is:

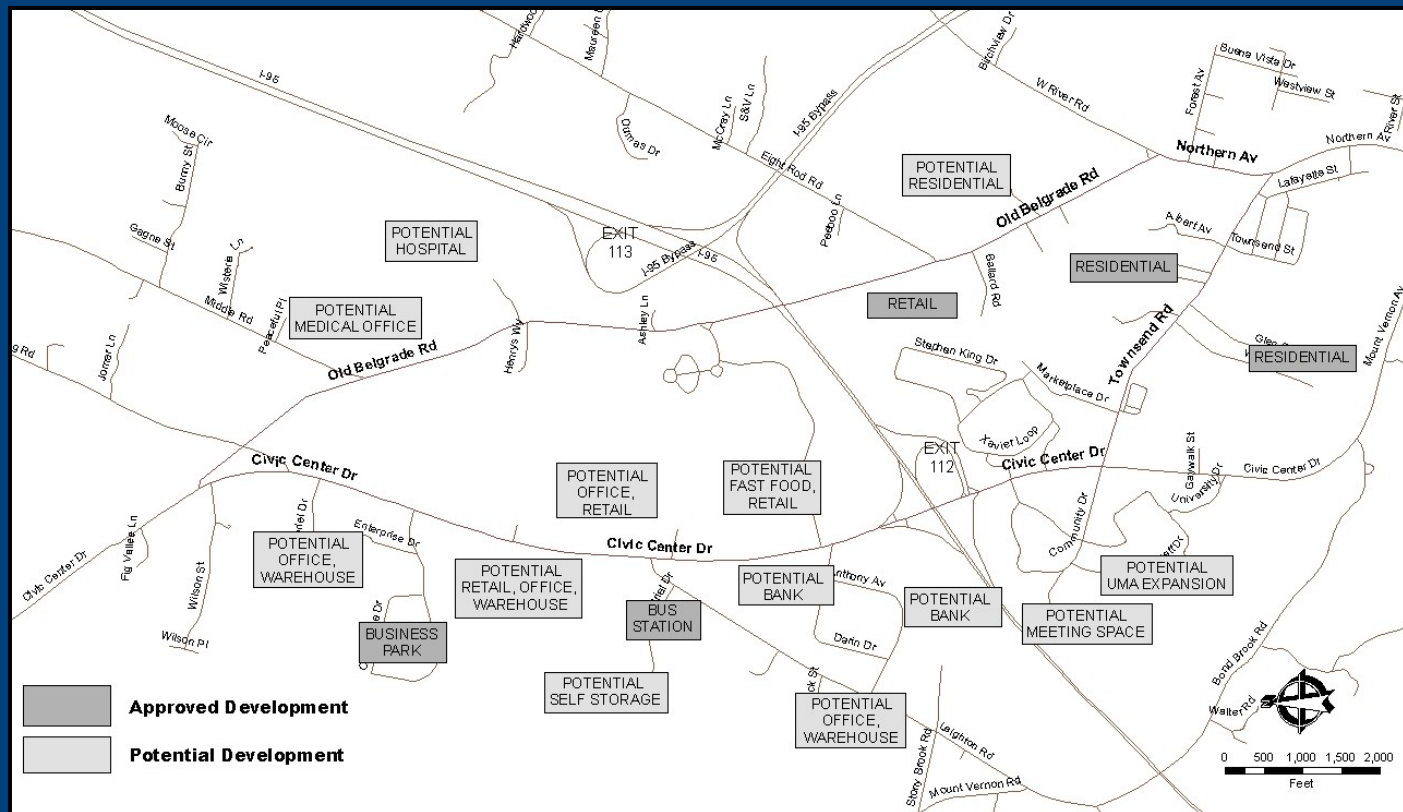
- Traffic congestion at I-95 and Route 27 (Civic Center Drive), Exit 112
- Vehicular conflict points creating High Crash Locations (HCLs) in the Exit 112 vicinity
- Access to compliment designated growth areas of Augusta
- Economic development pressures on the existing transportation infrastructure that has lead to increased traffic congestion

Future Land Use



Adopted by Augusta City Council, 2008

Potential Development



- Over 2.49 million square feet
- Medical, retail, service, office, storage, and warehousing

Reasonable Alternatives

- No-Build
- Transportation System Management (TSM)
- Travel Demand Management (TDM)
- Exit 112 Build
 - **Signalized Intersections**
 - **Roundabouts**
- Exit 113 Build
 - **Hybrid Partial Cloverleaf (parclo)**
 - **Roundabouts**
- Connection to Route 27
 - **New Highway Connector**
 - **Upgrade Old Belgrade Road**

Exit 112 No Build

- With one third of the proposed development, Civic Center Drive in the vicinity of the I-95 Exit 112 ramps are forecasted to exceed capacity resulting in gridlock.
- Vehicle queuing impedes operations of other intersections in the study area. In addition, mainline I-95 through traffic is disrupted by Exit 112 northbound and southbound off ramp queuing.

Transportation System Management (TSM)

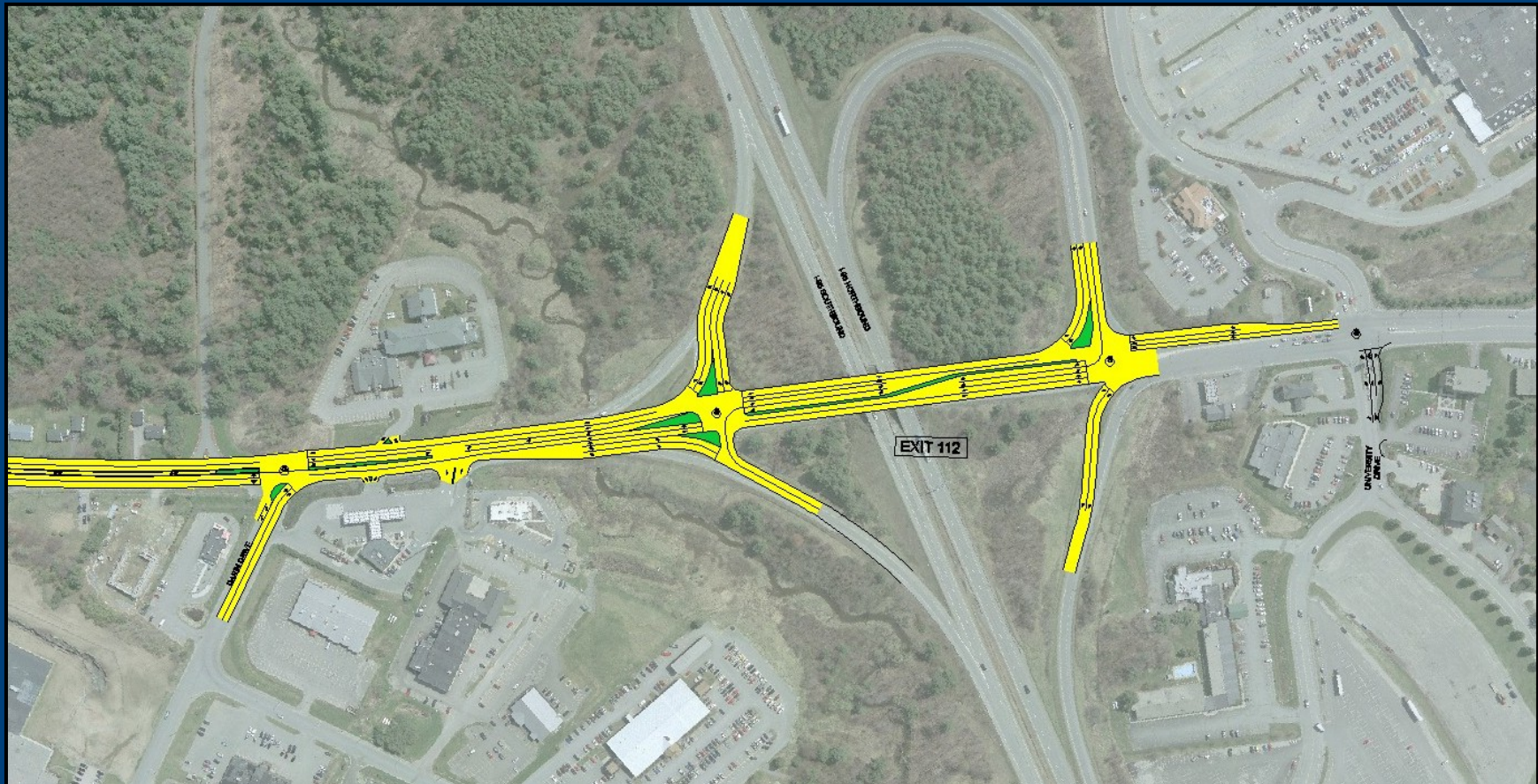
- Under the MaineDOT Traffic Movement Permit process numerous TSM projects on Civic Center Drive have been implemented to mitigate development traffic impacts including:
 - Modification of approaches to provide additional lanes;
 - Traffic signal installation;
 - Optimization of the timing for the coordinated traffic signal system; and
 - Access management.

Travel Demand Management (TDM)

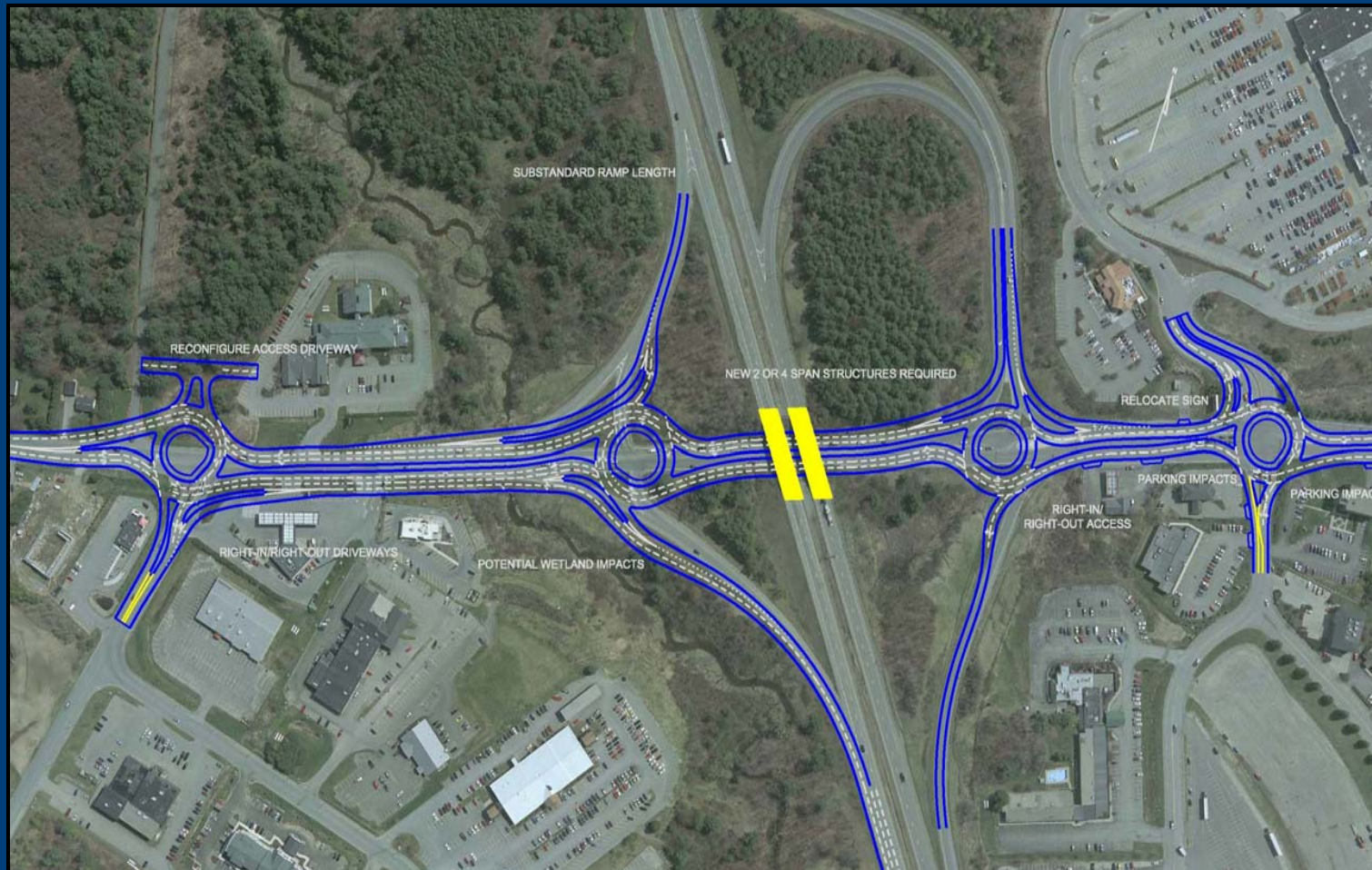
Exit 113 Modifications:

- Provide a direct link between I-95 and Old Belgrade Road resulting in fewer miles traveled for the Waterville-Augusta bus route;
- Reduce running time by five (5) minutes for the Waterville-Augusta bus route;
- The addition of a 40-passenger commuter bus between Augusta and Waterville could eliminate between 30 and 40 vehicles during both peak hours; and
- The addition of a 30-passenger commuter bus from downtown Augusta could eliminate between 24 and 36 vehicles during both peak hours.

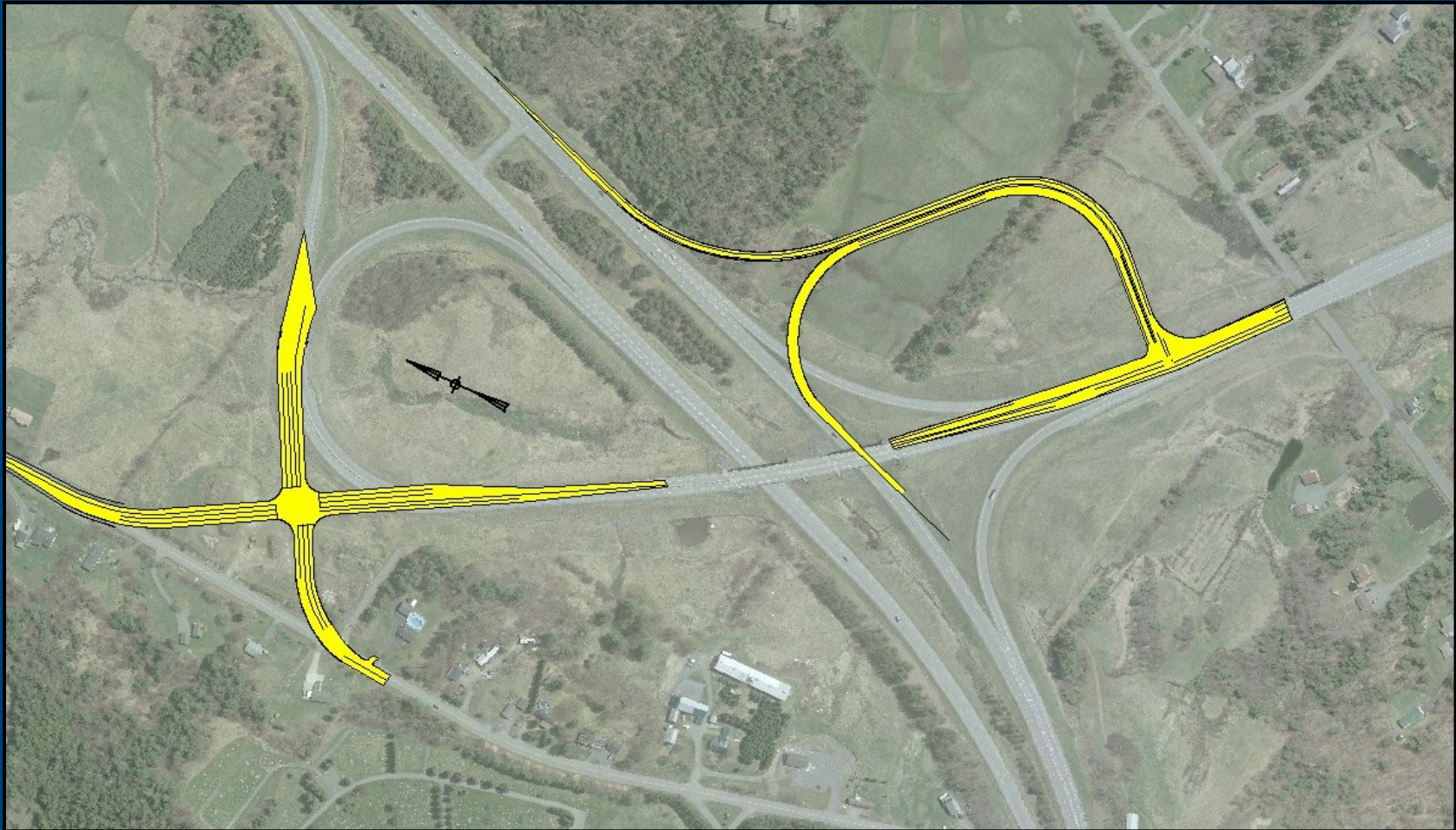
Exit 112 Build Signalized Intersections



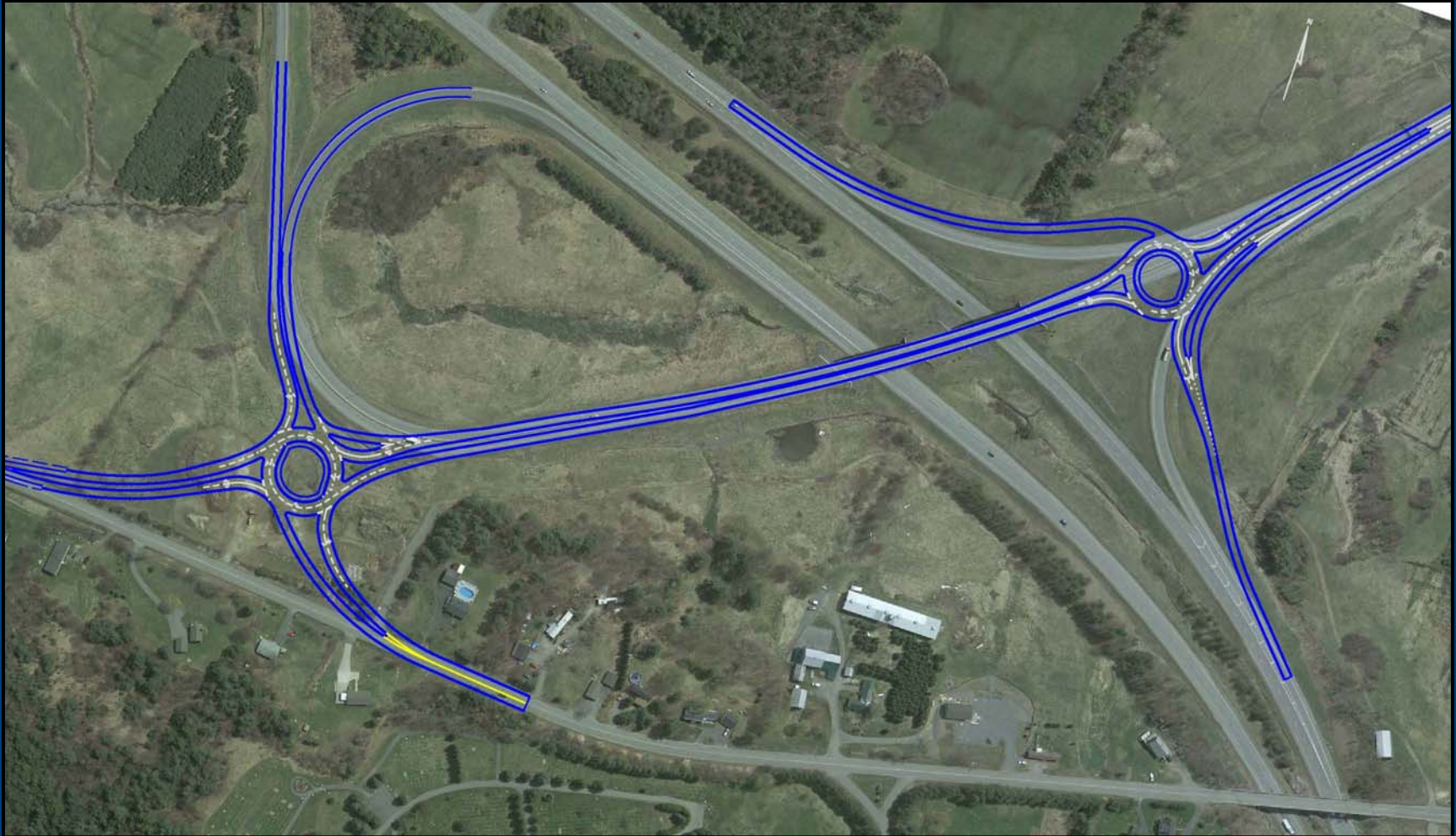
Exit 112 Build Roundabouts



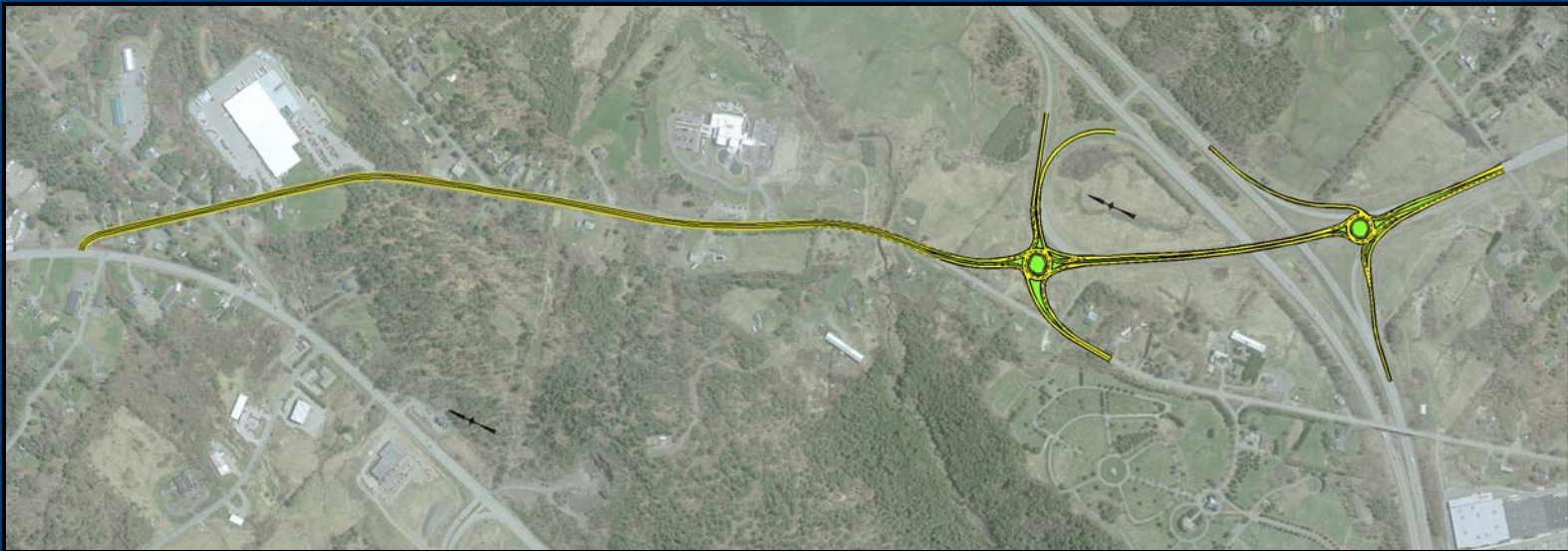
Exit 113 Build Hybrid Partial Cloverleaf



Exit 113 Build Roundabouts



I-95 to Route 27 Connector



Route 27/ Old Belgrade Road/ Bog Road Intersection

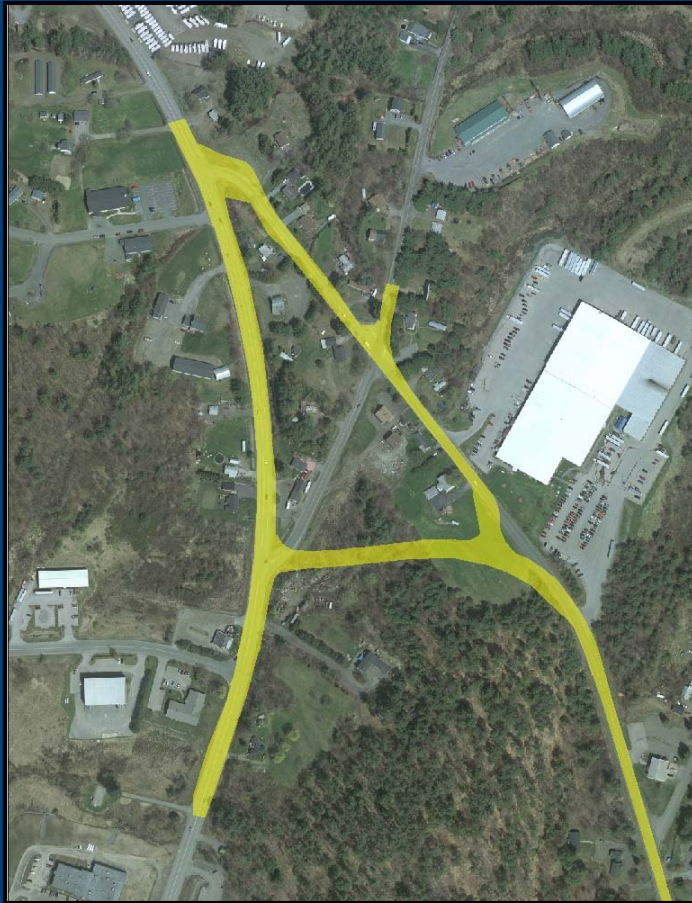


Close Lower Bog Road



One-Way Bog Road

Route 27/ Old Belgrade Road/ Bog Road Intersection (cont)



Relocated Old Belgrade Road

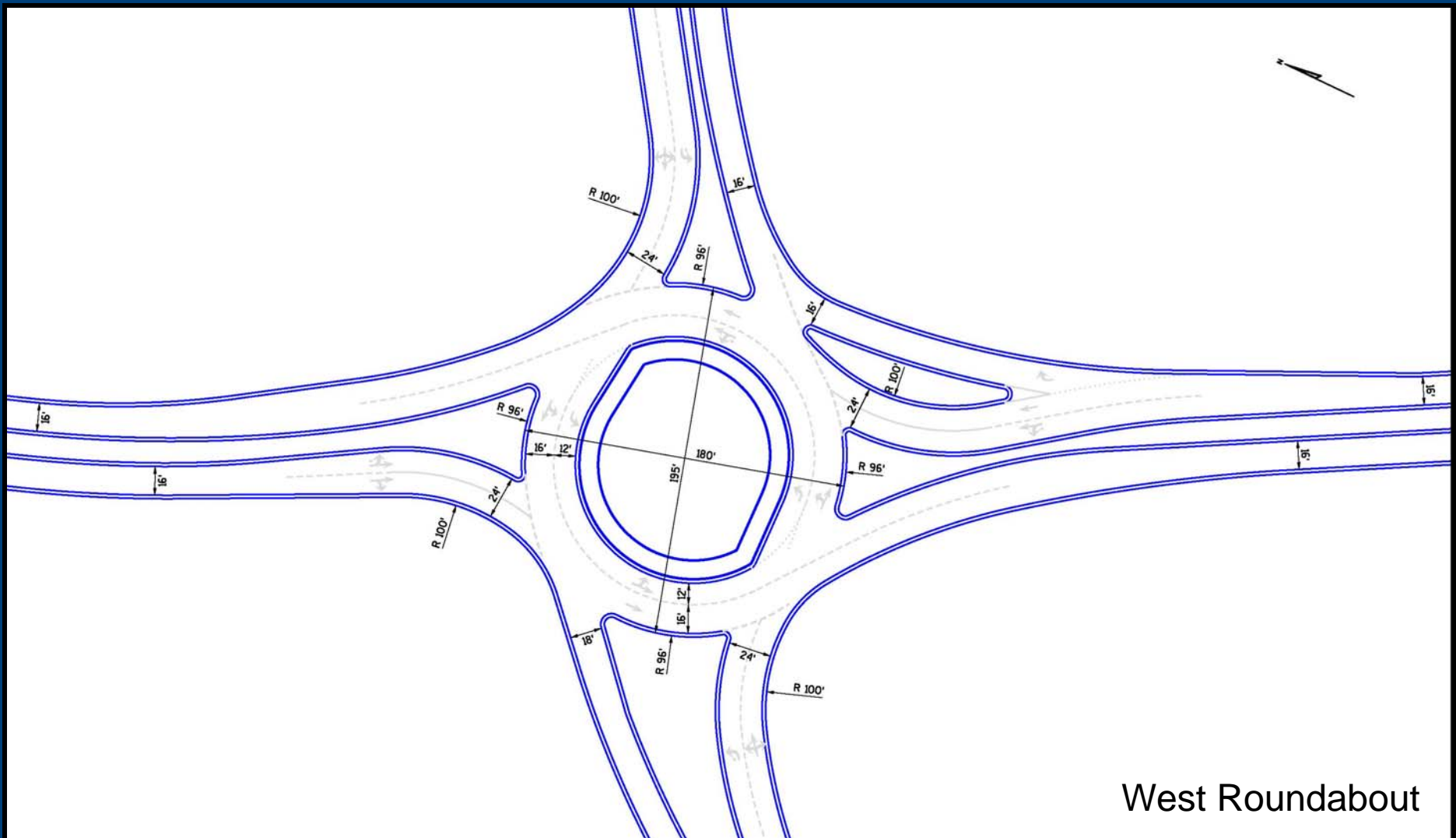


Roundabout

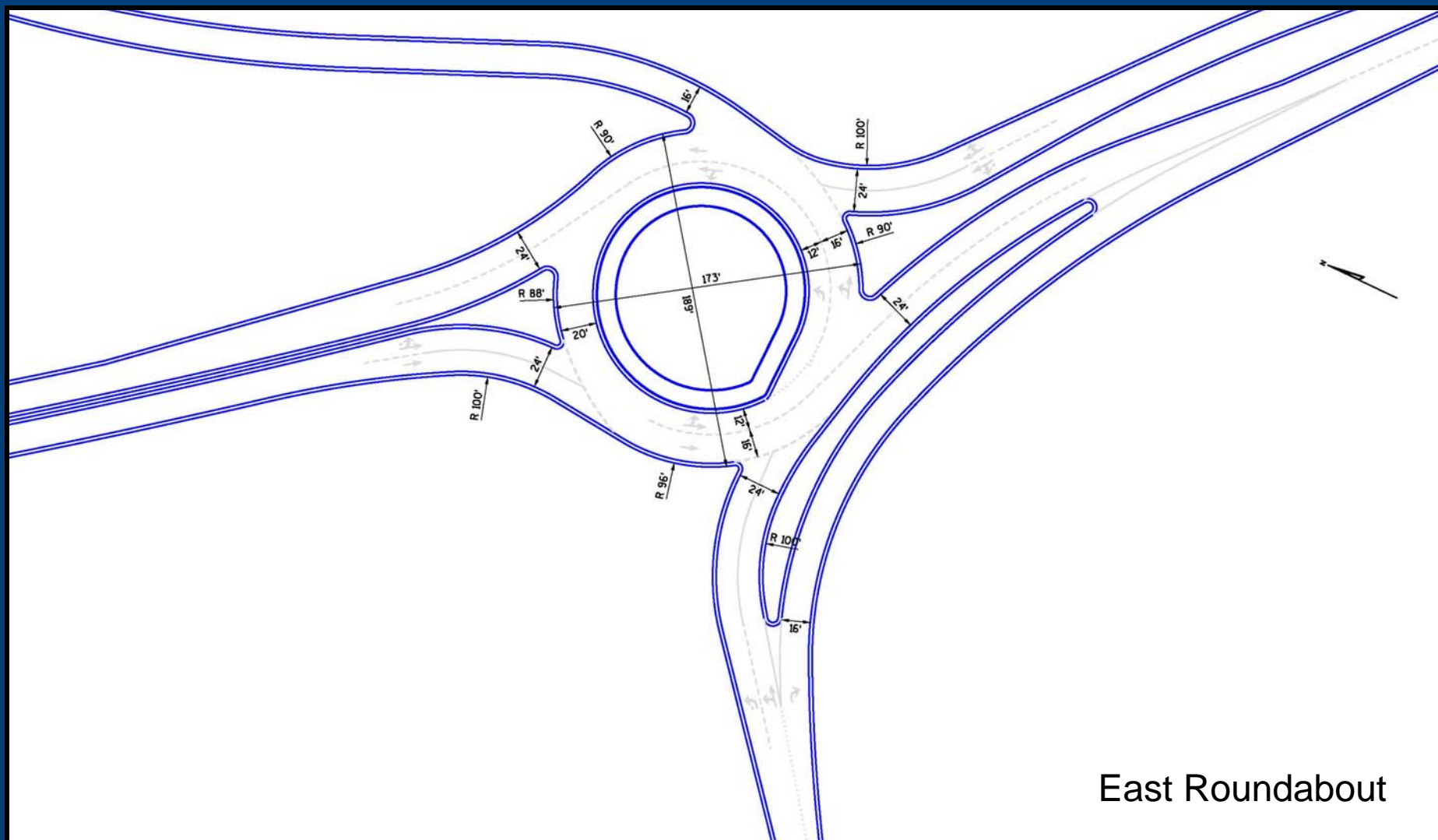
Preferred Alternative



Exit 113 Roundabout Geometry

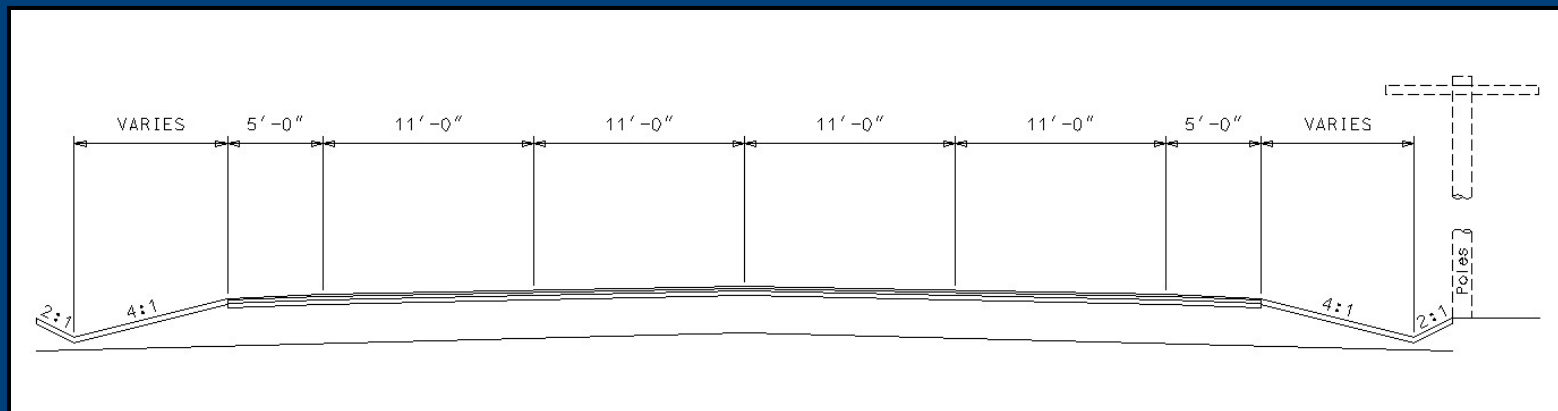


Exit 113 Roundabout Geometry

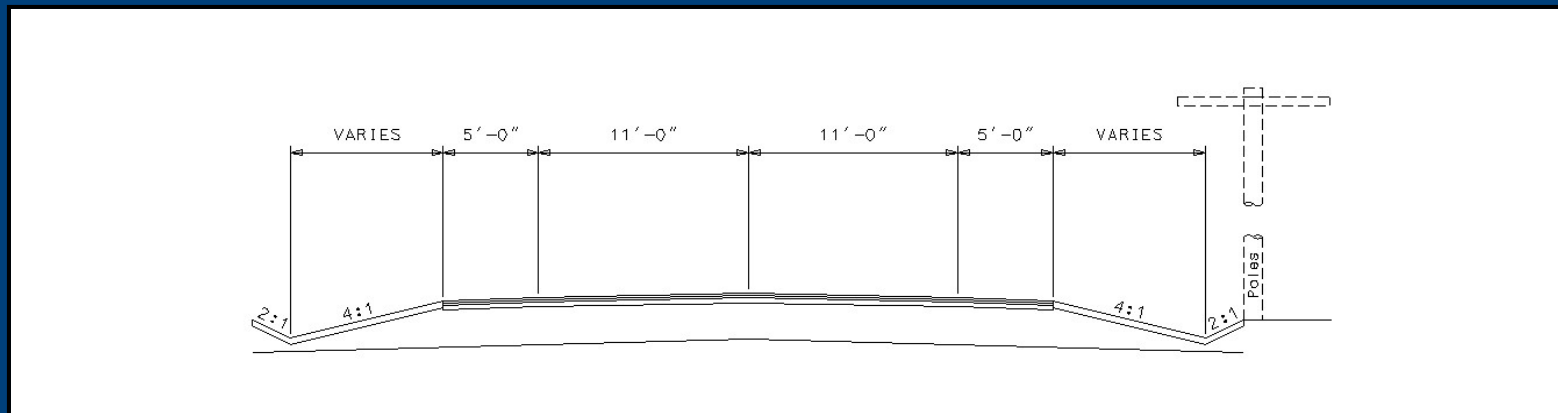


Old Belgrade Road Proposed Typical Section

From I-95 to MGMC Entrance



From MGMC Entrance to Route 27



Planning Level Cost Estimate

Phase	Estimated Cost (2010 dollars)
Preliminary Engineering	\$ 0.83M
Right-of-Way	\$ 0.93M
Construction	\$ 8.29M
Construction Engineering	\$ 0.83M
Total Estimate Cost	\$10.88M

Project Financing

Phase	Fiscal Year
Preliminary Engineering	2011
Right-of-Way	Not currently funded
Construction	Not currently funded

Purpose of NEPA

Requires Informed Decisionmaking by taking into account the potential impacts on the human and natural environment and the public's need for safe and efficient transportation.

Resources Analyzed

■ Wetlands

■ Stream

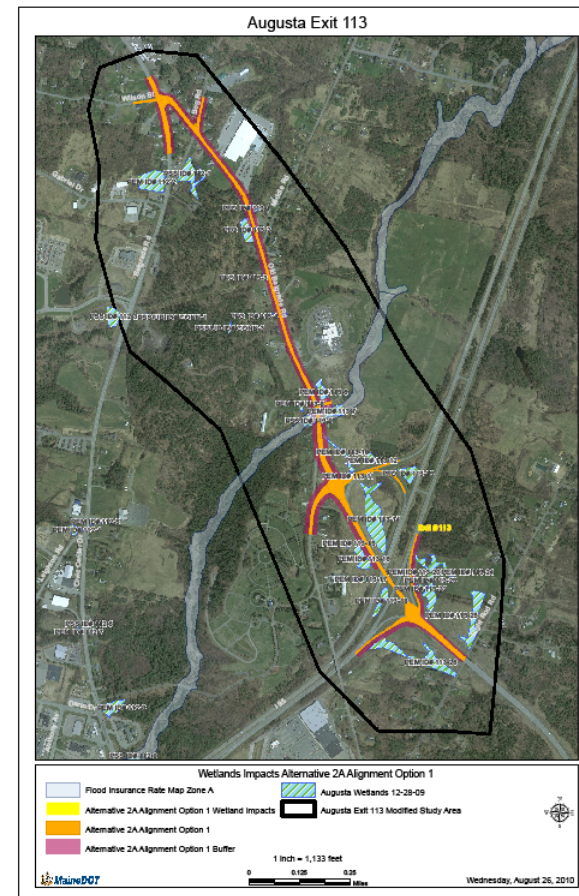
- Vernal Pools
- Farmlands
- Wildlife Habitat
- Noise
- Air
- Hazardous Materials
- Endangered Species
- Cultural

Upgrade of Old Belgrade Road avoids

- vernal pools
- segmenting wildlife habitat and
- potential archaeological resources.

Proposed Alternative Impacts

- Wetlands – 1.06 acres
- Emergent
- Forested
- Scrub-Shrub Wetlands



Stone Brook

- Adjacent to the Cancer Center Parking Lot.



Downstream



Upstream

Secondary Impacts

- 2.5 million square feet of pending, permitted and/or planned development in the Study Area.
- Exit 112 - the immediate vicinity has limited land available for new development – existing development includes the Marketplace, Augusta Civic Center, UMA & smaller developments
- Route 27 north of Exit 112 may have potential for small scale development.
1) A number of homes are For Sale as commercial property. 2) Commerce Center has developable lots
- Townsend Road & east of Route 27 – residential neighborhood that predates the Marketplace

Cumulative Impacts

- Past projects - since 1990 these projects have impacted @17 ac. wetlands
- Pending Planned Projects will impact @ 5.85 ac. Wetlands
- A number of the future projects are anticipated to occur within either the Medical District or Planned Development District zones along Old Belgrade Road or associated with construction of MGMC or at Commerce Center

Next Steps

- End of comment period: February 7, 2011
- **Prepare Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**
- Respond to substantial comments
- MaineDOT Recommends a preferred alternative to FHWA
- Summarize environmental impacts associated with the project
- Include a statement of findings on all relevant impact categories (i.e., wetland, floodplain, coastal zone consistency)
- Summarize mitigation.

Next Steps cont.

- Final Design
- Obtain Construction Funding
- Construction

Information Sources

Environmental Assessment:

1. www.mainedot.gov
2. MaineDOT Main Office Library
3. Augusta City Center
4. Maine State Library
5. FHWA Office

Mark Hasselmann

Federal Highway Administration

Room 614

Federal Building

Augusta, Maine 04330

(207) 622-8350

Darryl Belz, P.E.

Maine Department of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Systems Planning

16 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

(207) 624-3300

Thank you for participating in the Interstate 95 Exit 113 Interchange Public Hearing

Be sure to leave your comment cards with us here
tonight or return them postmarked by

February 7, 2011